

## PAYMENT OF RENTALS FOR POST-OFFICE PREMISES UNDER LEASE

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FEBRUARY 18, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. SPROUL of Illinois, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 3162]

The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, having had under consideration the bill (S. 3162) authorizing the Postmaster General to make monthly payment of rental for post-office premises under lease, reports the same back to the House with the unanimous recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The following letter from the Postmaster General to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads explains the need for this legislation:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, D. C., January 12, 1925.

HON. THOMAS STERLING,  
*Chairman Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads,  
United States Senate.*

MY DEAR SENATOR STERLING: I am informed that your committee is about to consider a bill (S. 3162) embodying certain recommendations for legislation incorporated in my annual report for the fiscal year 1924.

The recommendation to which I am now inviting attention is the one contemplating the payment of rental for post-office quarters monthly instead of quarterly, as provided for in the act of April 24, 1920, relating to the item "For rent, light, and fuel for first, second, and third class post offices."

In my opinion it is very necessary in order to secure competition in the renting of post-office quarters and as a consequence thereof lower rentals, that we be permitted to return to the old practice of paying rentals monthly. In one case the lessors of a large station\* stated that it would be a considerable financial advantage if they could receive their rent at the end of each month instead of quarterly. However, the department is unable to take advantage of such opportunities to effect savings owing to the restrictions of the law.

This will involve no hardship on the postmasters, except that they will be required to secure three vouchers, one for each month, instead of one at the end of each quarter, as is now done.

The money for the payment of the monthly rental is always on hand, and if not used in the payment of the expenses of the office is remitted to the designated depository.

I, therefore, feel that it would be in the best interests of the Government if legislation were enacted permitting us to make monthly payment of the rental for post-office quarters.

Very truly yours,

HARRY S. NEW, *Postmaster General.*

The committee had a hearing on this bill, at which a representative of the Post Office Department appeared on behalf of the Postmaster General, expressing approval of the bill as it passed the Senate and urging its speedy enactment into law. The committee is convinced that monthly payments instead of quarterly payments will enable the department to make better terms in renting necessary quarters, and that the bill is in the interest of economy and better business practice.